

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 /015 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:CNAGAO  
APPROVED BY:S/S-O:RWRIGHT  
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O 060841Z OCT 73 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199577

TOSEC 137

FOLLOWING BUENOS AIRES 7395 ACTION SECSTATE USUN NEW YORK  
INFO MONTEVIDEO OCTOBER 5, 1973 FROM BUENOS AIRES REPEATED  
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7395

USUN FOR ASST SECRETARY KUBISCH

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR LODGES CALL ON PRES-ELECT PERON

1. SUMMARY: ON THE EVENING OF OCT 4 I RECEIVED A CALL FROM  
MININT AND ACTING FONMIN LLAMBI AT THE RESIDENCE INFORMING  
ME THAT I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRES-ELECT PERON AT 10:00  
THE NEXT MORNING OCT 5. I APPEARED AT THE APPOINTED HOUR AND RE-  
MAINED WITH THE GENERAL AND LLAMBI FOR 25 MINUTES. IT WAS A  
FAREWELL CALL AND IT WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND TOUCHED ON  
A VARIETY OF MATTERS. PERON IMPRESSED ME AS BEING ENTIRELY  
LUCID, UTTERLY CHARMING, AND FAR MORE VIGOROUS AND HEALTHY  
IN APPEARANCE THAN SOME OTHER RECENT REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED.  
THERE WAS NOT ONE UNTOWARD MOMENT.

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2. ON ARRIVAL AT GASPAR CAMPOS IN COMPANY OF EMBOFF, I WAS  
SURPRISED BY ABSENCE OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO NORMALLY  
MILL ABOUT PERON RESIDENCE. SECURITY POST LOCATED AT STREET  
CORNER AND MANNED BY APPROXIMATELY 6 UNIFORMED POLICEMEN WHO  
CHECKED OUR IDENTITY BEFORE ALLOWING US ACCESS TO STREET.

SECURITY AT RESIDENCE ITSELF WAS APPARENTLY LIGHT.  
INSIDE THE HOUSE ONLY ONE  
STAFF MEMBER, JUAN ESCUER, WHO IS CHIEF OF PERONS SECURITY GURARDS  
AND WHO APPARENTLY DOUBLES AS TELEPHONE RECEPTIONIST WAS IN  
SIGHT.

3. GENERAL PERON RECEIVED ME WARMLY ON FRONT STEPS OUTSIDE HOUSE  
ACCOMPANIED BY LLAMBI AND USHERED ME INTO INTIMATE FIRST FLOOR  
LIVINGROOM. EMBOFF DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN MEETING BUT WAITED  
IN SMALL ADJOINING ROOM WHICH IS PERONS OFFICE. INDEED PERON  
I WAS TOLD HAD SUGGESTED EARLIER TO LLAMBI THAT HE NEED NOT  
COME TO GASPAR CAMPOS FOR THE MEETING AS HE PERON WOULD FEEL  
PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE RECEIVING ME ALONE. LLAMBI DID, HOWEVER  
ATTEND AND SAT IN ON MEETING. MY WIFE HAD MET WITH ISABLE  
ON SEPT 13 (BA 6816).

4. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO SAY GOODBYE TO  
HIM BEFORE LEAVING ARGENTINA WHICH AFTER MORE THAN 4 YEARS AS  
AMBASSAOR I HAD LEARNED TO LOVE. MY WIFE AND I HAD PASSED  
INTERESTING AND ENJOYALBLE YEARS IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND WE  
LEAVE BEHIND MANY WONDERFUL ARGENTINE FRIENDS. I SAID THAT I  
HOPED TO SEE PRESIDENT NIXON UPON MY RETURN AND WOULD BE GLAD  
TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO HIM. PERON ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT  
NIXON HIS PERONAL WISHES FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S SUCCESS IN HIS  
SECOND TERM. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PRESENT FRIENDLY  
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINA WOULD CONTINUE IN ENSUING  
YEARS AND RECALLED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS  
WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHEN BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT  
EISENHOWER WERE CHIEF EXECUTIVES. PERON PROFESSED GREAT  
ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER.

5. PERON EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR PRESIDENT NIXONS PROBLEMS.  
HE SAID THAT CHIEFS OF STATE WERE BEING INCREASINGLY ATTACKED  
FRONTALLY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE WATERGATE PROBLEM CAME FROM  
THE PENTAGON. I DISABUSED HIM OF THAT NOTION.

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6. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK PERON FOR GOA'S CONTINUING  
COOPERATION IN THE WAR ON DRUGS. I NOTED THAT ARGENTINE YOUTH  
IN GENERAL HAD NOT YET BEEN POISONED BY THIS PLAGUE TO DEGREE  
OUR YOUTHS HAVE. ACCEPTING MY EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE, PRESIDENT  
ELECT REMARKED THAT CONTINUED VIGILANCE AND EFFORTS WERE REQUIRED  
IN ARGENTINA IN THIS AREA FOR ARGENTINE YOUTH MIGHT WELL FALL  
VICTIM TO THE SAME TRAGEDY.

7. PERON DWELT ON SUBJECT OF COMMUNISM, TROTSKYISM, AND TERRORISM.  
HE DESCRIBED COMMUNISM AS NOTHING MORE THAN STATE CAPITALISM AND  
REITERATED THE VERY STRONG ANTIPATHY TOWARD TROTSKYISM  
HE HAD EXPRESSED TWO DAYS AGO AT PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL  
GOVERNORS. AGAIN HE ASSERTED THAT INTERNATIONAL TROTSKYITE  
MOVEMENT WAS BEING RUN OUT OF PARIS FROM AN OFFICE ON 48

RUE DE LA POUPÉE. I CONGRATULATED HIM ON STRONG POSITION HE HAD ADOPTED AGAINST TERRORISM AND MARXISM AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NO CHIEF OF STATE COULD TOLERATE KIND OF DIRECT CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY WHICH ARGENTINE TERRORISTS HAVE POSED IN RECENT MONTHS. PERON HEARTILY AGREED.

8. I COMMENTED ON FACT THAT CASTRO SEEMED TO SURVIVE IN SPITE OF CATASTROPHIC CONDITIONS IN CUBA. HE SAID THAT CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA ARE NOT SO GOOD EITHER.

9. ON MORE PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECT OF CHANGING PATTERNS OF MANKINDS SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN RECENT CENTURIES, PERON EXPLAINED HIS THEORY THAT THE NATION STATE, WHICH HAD REPLACED FEUDALISM, WAS NOW IN PROCESS OF GRADUAL EVOLUTION INTO FORM OF ORGANIZATION HE CALLED CONTINENTALISM. HE DESCRIBED THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, NORTH AMERICA, AND LATIN AMERICA AS HAVING ARRIVED AT DIFFERENT STAGES IN THIS PROCESS WHICH IN TURN WILL LEAD INEVITABLY TOWARD UNIVERSALISM. UNIVERSALISM, OR THE RETURN TO THE CONCEPT OF ONE EARTH FOR ALL MEN PERON OPINED WAS MANKINDS ONLY ULTIMATE SALVATION FROM GROWING WORLD FOOD DEFICITS AND POLLUTION. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. IN VIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS WE AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM OR TIME FOR VIOLENCE. I SAID THAT MAN SEEMED INCLINED TO DESTROY WITH HIS EVIL GENIUS WHAT HE CREATES WITH HIS GENIUS. HE LIKED THAT STATEMENT AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT.

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10. I TOOK WHAT I THOUGHT WAS THE APPROPRIATE INITIATIVE TO TERMINATE THE CONVERSATION AFTER 25 MINUTES. PERON LED ME FROM THE SITTING ROOM INTO HIS OFFICE WHEN HE INTRODUCED ME TO HIS WIFE, WHO HAD BEEN CHATTING WITH EMBOFF. MRS PERON RELATED HOW ENORMOUSLY PLEASED SHE HAD BEEN WITH MY WIFE'S CALL ON HER TWO WEEKS AGO. BOTH PERONS AND MIN LLAMBI THEN ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE DOOR. THE GENERAL GAVE ME AN ABRAZO AND SAID THAT I WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN ARGENTINA. HE WALKED WITH ME ALONE TO THE SIDEWALK AND WAVED FAREWELL.

11. COMMENT: THERE WERE NO APPARENT SIGNS OF PHYSICAL DETERIORATION IN PERON. HIS COLORING WAS GOOD. FOR YEARS HE HAS HAD POCKMARKS UNDER THE EYES. HE IS LEAN AND SLIGHTLY STOOPED. HIS GRIP WAS FIRM, HIS EYES CLEAR, AND HIS WALK STEADY. IN FACT I COMPLIMENTED HIM ON HIS HEALTHY APPEARANCE.

12. I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY PERON'S EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THE US AND PRESIDENT NIXON AND TOUCHED BY HIS PARTICULARLY WARM GESTURES AND WORDS TO ME. I CAME AWAY FROM THE MEETING WITH THE CONVICTION THAT PERON IS WELL AWARE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL COMMON INTERESTS AND CHALLENGES THAT BIND OUR TWO NATIONS. HE IS OF COURSE AN ASTUTE RESOURCEFUL AND LARGELY UNPREDICTABLE POLITICIAN AND A CHARMER CAPABLE OF PLAYING

BOTH ENDS AGAINST THE MIDDLE OF ALMOST ANY ISSUE OR SITUATION.  
WE SHOULD BE ON OUR GUARD. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING  
THE FUTURE OF ARGENTINA. THE UPCOMING PERIOD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY  
BE DIFFICULT, BUT WITH SKILLFUL AND SENSITIVE DIPLOMACY WE  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WITH PERON AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.  
LODGE UNQUOTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 11 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** thigpegh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE199577  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:**  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqceiyf.tel  
**Line Count:** 171  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <24-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR LODGES CALL ON PRES-ELECT PERON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AR, US  
**To:** USUN N Y  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005